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TWO CENTS.

THE NAVAL MILITIA

Attempt to Put the Local Organization on a Sound Basis.

PROVISIONS OF SENATOR HALE'S BILL

Likely to Be Favorably Reported Special Dispatch to The Evening Star.

THE PRESENT ORGANIZATION

There is every probability that during the present Congress provision will be made for placing the naval militia of the District of Columbia on the same footing with respect to appropriations and other advantages that is enjoyed by the naval milltia in the several states. A little over a year ago efforts were begun to establish a naval militia for the District of Columbia, and today there are enrolled, under an organization which has its headquarters in the United States navy yard here, about 125 members. In the last Congress a bill was passed by the Senate and favorably reported to the House of Representatives giving this organization equal privileges with similar organizations in states, but it failed of final passage in the House during the last days of the Congress, aithough no objection to the

measure was made.

During the special session of Congress last spring Mr. Hale, chairman of the Senate committee on naval affairs, introduced to the constant of the constant duced a bill for the organization of a naval battalion in the District of Colum-bia, which is substantially similar to the bill for the same purpose considered by the last Congress. It provides

Senator Hale's Bill.

"That in addition to the companies of volunteer militia now authorized in the District of Columbia there may be organized not more than four companies of raval militia, which shall constitute a battalion, to be known as the naval battalion of the National Guard of the District of

That the officers of the naval battalion shall consist of one commander, and a staff, to consist of one executive officer, with the rank of Heutenant commander, one adjutant, one chief engineer, one paymaster and one surgeon, each with the rank of lieutenant, and one assistant engineer, with the rank of lieutenant, junior

"That each company shall consist of one lieutenant, one junior lieutenant, two ensigns and not less than two nor more than six crews, each crew to consist of not exceeding sixteen petty officers and

"That in all matters not otherwise specially provided for the provisions of law which provide for the organization of the militia of the District of Columbia shall apply to the naval battalion.

That general routine of duty, discipline and exercises of the naval battalion, and parts thereof, shall conform with the laws. customs and usages of the navy, as far as the same apply, and where they do not apply then such routine of duty, discipline and exercises shall conform to the laws governing the volunteer forces of the Dis-trict of Columbia."

Referred to Mr. Hale.

At a meeting of the Senate committee on naval affairs Wednesday morning this bill was referred to Senator Hale for a report, and it is understood that it will be favorably reported to the Senate in a short time. During the last administration the Navy Department favored the legislation asked Department lavored the desired for, and Assistant Secretary Roosevelt occupies the same position. The District Commissioners have also indorsed the movement.

The Present Organization.

The naval reserve battalion of the District of Columbia was organized November 18, 1896, with the following officers: Commander Robert P. Hains, Lieut. Com. Wm. A. Megrath, Lieut. James H. Colwell, in charge of division 1; Lieut. W. T. Gray, in charge of division 2; Lieut. E. T. Kimball, in charge of division 3; Adjutant S. G. Hopkins, Paymaster S. Bieber, Lleut. T. E. Lee, junior grade; Lieut. S. J. Allen, junior grade; Assistant Engineers J. M. Ober and J. F. Scott. Of the above officers Messrs are graduates of the United States Naval Academy.

On the 2d of December, 1896, the com manding officer at the United States navy yard here fitted up for the use of the bat talion a large room in the boat house at the navy yard and gave permission for the battalion to drill in the navy yard. Boat crews were organized and considerable practice has been given the battalion. With the advantages that will be given the organization through the passage of the bill referred to, it is expected the naval battalion will make rapid progress, so that it will soon be equal, if not superior, to any similar organization in the country. There are about thirty graduates of the United States Naval Academy residing here, and not in the naval service. These graduates take an active interest in the work of building up a naval battalion and provide ample material to call upon to place it

NATHANIEL MCKAY'S CLAIM.

The San Domingo Government Has

Agreed to Settle. The Department of State has made a de cided advance toward a settlement of the long-standing claim of Nathaniel McKay against the Dominican government for indemnity for the seizure by that government of a bridge constructed by him in San Domingo at a cost of \$150,000. The State Department has been pressing this claim for some time, and the negotiations have pro gressed to the point that the Dominican government has consented to settle the claim on the basis of such award as may be made by two expert civil engineers, who will be selected to examine the bridge and make an appraisement of the property.
These experts will be selected, one by Mr.
McKay and the other by the Dominican government.

Soldiers' Cemetery Neglected. In answer to a Senate resolution adopt ed during the first session of the present Congress, the Secretary of States has submitted a report from United States Consul Woessrer at Saltillo, Mexico, in regard to the condition of the burial place there of the United States soldiers who fell in the battle of Buena Vista in 1847. The consul reports that the grounds are in very bad condition, and that the graves are threatened with exposure by washing rains. The land belongs to a private party, and it is recommended that an appropriation be made for its purchase and improvement.

To Relieve the Marblehead.

The cruiser Detroit left Key West this morning for Port au Prince, Haiti, to relieve the cruiser Marblehead, which has exhausted her coal supply, and is under orders to proceed to Key West to replenish it. The Marblehead may in turn relieve the Detroit of duty at the Haitian capital, but this is a subject for future considera-tion. Secretary Long says there is no sig-

Governor Bushnell Hopes, However, to Be Hit by Senate Lightning.

Opposition to Senator Hanna to Meet in Caucus at Columbus, Ohio, This Evening.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, December 17.-The story emanating from Columbus that Gov. Bushnell is openly out for senator and tha he will reappoint Col. Conger on his staff as an affront to Senator Hanna, is one of the numerous ridiculous stories which are being hatched in Ohio this fall.

There is no doubt that the enemies of Senator Hanna are plotting against him as they never have before, and that a desperate effort is being made to defeat him. Senator Hanna is quoted in an interview given out at Washington last night in these words: "I believe some new political scheme is being hatched in Ohio." He made this statement after being informed of an extended conference which Charles L. Kurtz had with John R. McLean at the latter's residence in Washington yesterday. Those who are most familiar with the Chio situation know that Gov. Bushnell will never openly become a candidate for the United States Senate against Mr. Hanna.

He is today just what he was two months ago-a receptive candidate. Mr. Kurtz is reported to be due in Columbus this morning. The three anti-Hanna members of the legislature from this county will go to Columbus this evening, and they make no secret of the fact that while they are there 'hey intend to see Kurtz or some of the other anti-Hanna leaders for the purpose of conferring with them re garding the situation.

At no period in the campaign has the copposition to Mr. Hanna been as open as it is now, and yet every one who knows Mr. Hanna most intimately says he will win with hands down.

CLAIMS AGAINST THE DISTRICT.

Representative Catchings Introduces

a Bill Relating to Counter Claims. Mr. Catchings has introduced a bill in the House providing "That in the adjudication of claims heretofore brought under the provisions of the act entitled 'An act to provide for the settlement of all outstand-

ing claims against the District of Columbia, and conferring jurisdiction on the Court of Claims to hear the same, and for other purposes,' no sum in excess of the sum named in the written contract allowed by the late board of public works or the late board of audit of the District and paid to claimants for work done or materials furnished for the District, at the rates es-tablished and allowed by the board of public works and known as 'board rates,' public works and known as board rates, shall be pleaded or allowed as a set-off or counter claim against any claim for work done or materials provided for the District, so far as the prices allowed and paid were reasonable, just and equitable. And in all eases where such set-off of counter claim has been allowed, pleaded or traverse file I egainst such claim in cases heretofore brought, the claimant shall in such cases be entitled to a relearing of his case: Provided, That a motion specifically setting forth the claim therefor shall be made within ninety days after the approval of this act, and no rehearing shall granted upon any other point.'

COMPETING WITH UNCLE SAM.

Substation Postmasters Cannot Be For some time the post office officials have been investigating the subject of prohibiting post office substations from carrying on any business that brought the United States into competition. The express companies are especially aimed at, and the de partment does not propose in the future o permit a post office substation to be the agent of an express company. It is contended that such an arrangement is detrimental to the mail service. The express companies, it is stated, pay the owner of the substation a certain bonus on every package received. This, in the large ma-

favor the express company.

Postmaster Willett has received instrucions to notify all substations of the wish of the department in this respect, and hereafter the owners of substations, if they wish to represent Uncle Sam, must cancel their arrangement with express companies and attend strictly to the United States'

jority of cases, exceeds the amount the United States would pay, and there is a

constant incentive to the substation man to

PUBLIC BUILDING CONSTRUCTION.

Secretary Gage Opposed to Awarding Contracts Piecemeal.

Secretary Gage agrees fully with the Star that the construction of public buildings should not be of the piecemeal order of business. "These buildings," said Secretary, Gage

should be let to contract as a whole, no matter how much they are to cost. Congress should appropriate the whole amount for a building at one time and do away with the policy of making appropriations by degrees. This policy necessitates piecemeal contracts, and causes an endless amount of trouble. The government has to deal with numerous contractors in each building, is required to advertise for separate bids, and is put to considerable extra expense. There are responsible contractors who would undertake the erection of a building subject to the penalties imposed. Faulty work or any kind could be punished. and no loss would fall to the government There would then be little delay in the completion, of a building. What now takes four years to finish would be ended in less

han half the time. of public buildings as a business man. He thinks both money and time would be saved by a change of policy. The Secretary vants to see the new immigrant building at Ellis Island let out as a whole, and not contracted for in parts. He thinks it can be done much quicker by giving it out in a

single contract. officials in the office of the superising architect of the treasury say that he policy of that office has undergo change in the last eighteen months. Prior to that many contracts on a single building were awarded, as in the case of the new city post office. The policy now, it is de-clared, is to embrace as much work as pos-sible in one contract. In the case of public buildings to cost not over \$150,000 the en tire work is let out in one contract.

It is claimed at the architect's office that

there is always special work around a building which ought not to be cluded in a general contract. Plumbing, heating and the putting in of elevators are included in what is believed to be special

Reinstatement Ordered. Mrs. Helen A. Engle, widow of Capt. J.

E. Engle, whose death occurred quite recently, has been reinstated to a position she formerly held in the Treasury Department. The reinstatement was made under the rule which entitles soldiers' widows to the same benefits derived by veterans un-der what is known as rule 10. Mrs. Engle is to be at once transferred to the pension office, where she will be assigned to the division in which her husband served as section chief.

NOT AN OPEN CANDIDATE EFFECT OF HIS BILL

Secretary Gage Questioned as to His Currency Plan.

HEARING BEFORE HOUSE COMMITTEE

Committing the Country to the Gold Standard.

RELATION TO POLITICS

Secretary Gage resumed his exposition of his comprehensive currency bill before the House committee on banking and currency today. Chairman Walker had left the city and Mr. Brosius of Pennsylvania presided. Before the bill proper was taken up some semi-political questions were asked.

Mr. Hill (Conn.) called Mr. Gage's attention to the statement made yesterday that the first purpose of the bill was to commit the country to the gold standard.

"You are recognized as a republican," said Mr. Hill, addressing the Secretary, "and you are familiar with the financial platform of the republican national convention at St. Louis. Do you consider that this purpose of more firmly fixing the gold standard on the country conflicts with the principle of the St. Louis platform?"

"No, sir," responded Mr. Gage, "not as I look at the principle of bimetallism. Bi-I look at the principle of bimetallism. Bimetallism must mean one of two things: Either it is two kinds of money on unequal value circulating side by side by reason of the exchange of the less valuable for that of greater value, or else two kinds of money of such intrinsic equality that they will circulate naturally side by side. We have a bimetallic currency in the United States now. A firm establishment of the gold standard, with such interchangeability with silver as will make it acceptable on an silver as will make it acceptable on an equality with gold, will maintain this bi-

equality with gold, will maintain this bimetallism the same as it has existed for the
last eighteen years."

The Secretary went on to state that this
in no way prejudiced any steps that might
be taken to bring silver up to a higher
standard of value. The bill, however, was
designed to give such confidence in the
financial ability of the government that
the discriminations against silver would
largely decrease. largely decrease.

Mr. Cox (Tenn.) asked if the result of the

Gage bill eventually would not lead to one kind of paper money-bank notes-and no

kind of paper money—bank notes—and no silver except subsidiary silver. "There is nothing in the plan to operate to that extent now," answered the Secre-tary. "It is in that direction, and with furtary. "It is in that direction, and with fur-ther legislation developing it, it might ul-timately lead to such a result. But I would not say that silver would be restricted to subsidiary silver. I would say a system of silver which would be subordinate. It is subordinate now."

Considering the Bill.

After this diversion to the silver question, the consideration of the bill by sections was resumed at section 7, where the discussion closed yesterday.

This section provides that on the deposit United States notes, treasury notes of 1889 or silver certificates to an amount of not less than 50 per cent of its capital, it shall receive national bank notes, in addition to the 50 per cent otherwise provided, to the amount of 25 per cent of such deposit, these additional notes not being secured by the deposit of bonds or notes, but by the assets of the bank and the government guaranty. Mr. Gage referred to the advantage of this additional unsecured c reulation, in giving an elasticity to the currency at points where t was most needed. He showed from to returns of the controller's office how small a percentage of loss came from national enks, and urged that this unsecuted circu lation would entail an inconsiderable obligation on the government, by reason of its guaranty, and this would be overcome by the small tax on the bank, constituting

In answer to questions by Mr. Newlands of Nevada, the Secretary said that the amount of refunding bonds under the bill would reach \$1,138,000,000 if all of them were issued. These being the basis for circulation, bank notes could be issued to that amount. Besides these the additional 25 per cent of unsecured circulation would give a further issue of bank notes of abou \$300,000,000. But that vast issue was merely the creation of a specter, and was not a reality. The banks could not get all the bonds and use them for issuing bank notes. On the contrary, government bonds are always taken largely by private investors trust companies, insurance companies and parties across the water. Any effort by the banks to absorb all the bonds would s affect the price as to defeat the object in view. And this also would serve as a check to the expansion of bank circulation.

Gold Contracts.

Mr. Newlands referred to "gold contracts" and asked the Secretary's view of them. Mr. Gage said he did not consider it de sirable to interfere with private contracts of this character any more than was neces-

To Mr. Price of Illinois he explained that his expression "gold and other legal money" used in the bill meant no reflection on silver or other classes of money. The other legal money included silver and the expression merely served to cover a well inderstood term.

extent to which drains on the government stock of gold would result under the operations of the bill excited much dis

Mr. Gage stated that all redemptions would be made in gold or its equivalent.

Mr. Fowler of New Jersey said this opened a serious question. The Secretary pro-vided for the issue of bank notes on the de-posit of United States notes (greenbacks), treasury notes or silver certificates. The result, he declared, would be that the mos indesirable form-silver certificates-would be deposited and impounded, and their place taken by national bank notes. The latter drew gold, the former did not. Hence, Mr. Fowler asserted, the Secretary propos

creasing the drain on our gold supply.

Mr. Gage answered that it was easy conjure up hypothetical objections, but did not look at this one as serious. Wi t was true that silver certificates might be leposited and bank notes issued agains hem, yet any Secretary of the Treasury, on receiving these silver certificates, would "swap" them for greenbacks, treasury notes and other forms of demand notes, which served to drain gold. These other forms of notes were always coming 'swapped" for the silver certificates, and thus the redemption fund could be built up

Guaranteed by the Government.

Proceeding to section 8, which provides for a deposit by the banks of a sum equal to 10 per cent of the circulation, and also pledges the faith of the United States to the redemption of the bank notes, Mr. Gage said the latter feature was merely to make clear the same pledge as the government now gave to the integrity of bank rotes. He did not agree with objections suggested, that the 10 per cent deposit required of the banks and the 2 per cent tax on them for a safety fund would make it unprofitable for them to issue circulation. There were other advantages secured to them which offset this obection. He said he would present a table by the treasury actuary showing the estimated profits ari

above \$10. Mr. Gage said that the purpose of this was to give the government the monopoly on small bills in most common

When section 10, providing for the redemption of bank notes at the New York subtreasury and other designated points, was reached Mr. Cox asked Mr. Gage why he did not specify that the redemption should be in gold or other legal money.

The Secretary answered that the less discretionary nower imposed on an expectation. discretionary power imposed on an execu-tive officer in the execution of a principle the better, for sometimes executive officers might have indiscretion and do foolish things. Moreover, this discretion existed

A Political Discussion.

When the rest of the bill had been read a general discussion began. In answer to a cross fire of questions, Mr. Gage said the bill could not result in a raid on the treasury by bank notes. It was not the substitution of an "engless chain" of greenbacks for another "endless chain" of bank notes. The banks would have to resubstitution of an "endless chain" of deem their own notes and it would be to their object to do so or they would be closed. But so long as a dollar of demand closed. But so long as a dollar of demand obligations was outstanding, so long this "endless chain" would go on. He said: "This bill is simply a step in the right direction and a most important step. It viould give the government \$325,000,000 of the very liabilities which are most likely to be brought against it. Of this \$125,000,000 is in gold. Then, with the further measure, recommended by the President measure, recommended by the President, giving authority for a loan up to \$100,000,000,000 when required the government would be so strong in time of emergency as to resist any stress. Faith would be established, and people would not come to the treasury for lack of faith, but only from necessity."

cessity."
This brought on an interesting and amusing discussion of politics, as relating to Mr. Brosius asked if the Secretary felt Air. Brosus asked if the Secretary felt that the bill would obviate any probabil-ity of the country's being forced to a sil-ver basis.

The Secretary thought it would beyond

"Suppose the next election should bring

in a House of Representatives favorable to free silver," asked Mr. Fowler, republican, "and a free silver bill was passed by the House and by the Senate. Now—."

"I object," interposed Mr. Hill, republican, "as that is not even a hypothetical possibility." possibility."

"It is a certainty," declared Mr. Cox,
democrat, amid laughter, in which Secre-

tary Gage joined.

Mr. Fowler pressed his question. "Between 1898, when this free silver measure might be passed by Congress, and 1900, when the advocates of sound money returned to power, could the country go to a silver basis?"

Mr. Gage's answer brought another round

Air. Gage's answer brought another round of laughter and applause. "In view of the absolute certainty of a presidential veto," said he, "I think we could pull through."

This closed Mr. Gage's hearing, and he was given a vote of thanks. Several members sought to have another hearing dur-ing the holidays, but there was strenuous objection to this, and the original plan was adhered to, of adjourning until January 12, when the Gage bill, the monetary confer-

be taken up. NEXT YEAR'S ELECTIONS.

ence bill and other financial measures will

Congressional Committee Being Formed by Democrats.

The democrats in Congress are going through the process of forming a congressional committee to take care of the next by a national bank of United States bonds, of the committee was made as usual at the caucus last Saturday, and now the several states are selecting and certifying their representatives on the committee, one from each state.

> An important question of policy is in volved in the organization of the committee. The future of the silver alliance deperds much upon the policy adopted by this committee in the next congressional campaign. It is realized by them that a congressional campaign conducted by the democrats without taking into consideration the claims of their allies of the las presidential campaign would practically put an end to the alliance and hopelessly divide the silver forces into three or mo factions. If populists in their strongholds and silver republicans in their strongholds are antagonized by democratic candidates and either or both of those two have can didates in democratic districts, it will destroy the foundation of the alliance t is going to be a delicate and difficult hing to so manage matters as to avoid rivalry and conflict. There are severa democratic senators and populist and sil-ver republican senators whose re-election will depend upon a mutual understanding which will prevent rivalry between the silver partles. A number of districts in the House are similarly situated.

> It is understood that in organizing the ongressional committee the purpose be to so construct it as to make it a "Bryan committee," ready to carry out the Bryan idea of unification of silver

MANY SETTLERS INTERESTED.

Secretary Bliss Denies a Northern Pacific Railroad Application. The Secretary of the Interior has denied the application of the Northern Pacific Railroad Company to withhold the adjudication of land entries on that portion of its route claimed by the company from Duluth, Minn., to Ashland, Wis. Over a year ago the department rendered a decision holding that the eastern terminus of the railroad was at Duluth, while the company contends that the grants originally made to it by Congress contemplated that this terminal should be at Ashland, and very recently it has instituted judicial proceedings to determine the question. The Secretary holds

tion of the entry.

It is understood this decision affects nu nerous settlers who have taken up home steads and pre-emption claims on the line of the road claimed by the company, and if the decision of the courts sustain the con-tention of the railroad company they will have to vacate their holdings or settle with the railroad company.

to warrant the withholding the adjudica

is not sufficient reason shown

Mr. Pritchard of North Carolina today in roduced a bill in the Senate to raise the age of consent for girls in the District of Columbia to eighteen years.

Mr. McMillan today introduced in th Senate a bill prepared by the Commissioners to vest in the Commissioners of the District of Columbia control of street park-ing in the District. The object of the bill is o transfer to the municipal authorities of the District of Columbia, jurisdiction over the street parkings now held by the courts to be vested in the Secretary of the In-terior and the chief engineer of the army.

Wants Cobble Stones Removed. Dr. Henry E. Woodbury has written to Mr. MeMillan, chairman of the Senate District committee, requesting that something be done to hurry up the replacing of the cobble stone pavement by asphalt on 24th street between Pennsylvania avenue and M street northwest. Dr. Woodbury states

that the square indicated has been pl

sired, but apparently it will take, under

ent conditions, two or three years to

Cuban Representatives not Received. Secretary Sherman says the report that he granted an official audience to Mr. Quesada and Mr. Albertini, representatives of the Cuban republic, is absurd, for the reason that this government has never recognized the alleged republic, and consequently can have no relations with it.

CUBA'S RESOURCES SEMINOLE TREATY SIGNED

Destroying the Labor Supply of the

EFFECT ON THE COUNTRY'S FUTURE

What Was Learned in a Visit to Guines.

DYING IN THE STREETS

(Copyright, 1897, by Charles M. Penner,) Special Correspondence of The Evening Star.

GUINES, Cuba, December 11, 1897. Guines is a good place in which to study the conditions and prospects of rural Cuba. Here an idea may be had of the resources which are left for the renewal of the island's industrial existence. The natural wealth has been added to by the system of irrigating ditches, which date back to the beginning of the century. Guines was the garden of Cuba. In the ravages of the war it has been spared entire desolation. Some appearance of smiling and productive nature has been preserved when other parts of the island have been turned into a charred wilderness. The town had been for many years a prosperous one. The tewnspeople were in good circumstances, many of them rich. The neighboring country, besides the big sugar plantations, had many small farms, whose owners cultivated cane, tobacco, onion's and potatoes with the certainty of a profitable yield and a ready market. The insurgents from weakness or for other reasons were never very aggressive in either attack or destruction of property. And though the Spanish troops in carrying out Weyler's orders destroyed, it was not with the savage thoroughness that marked the work elsewhere. So something of the resources of soil and cultivation remains to Gaines at the beginning of the new era in Spain's colonial government.

But while Guines has been thus signally favored in keeping a portion of its natural riches its loss of other resources has been equally signal. The loss has been in human labor. A prodigal soil alone will not restore agriculture and trade. Are there people enough left to upbuild the country? That is the question which most concerns Cuba today. Whether the future be autonomy, independence or an American protectorate, an answer must be found to it. I came to Guines with the notion that the inquiry might be made with advantage here, without having to say too much of wretchedness and suffering. That is a story so old and so often told that the element of personal feeling or sympathy or resentment may be left out in trying to solve the problem of political economy or of labor supply, which is now the most pressing one. Individual cases may obtrude themselves at times. On leaving the train in the morning I asked the way to an inn. Replied the man from whom the direction was asked: "When you reach that corner where the negro is lying turn to your left and go on to the soldiers' barracks. The nn is close by."

Dying in the Streets.

This answer was given in the most matter-of-fact way, without an inflection in the tone which could have been construed as unfeeling or brutal. A little knot of people, a dozen or fifteen, were on the corner. The negro was stretched on the pavement. His forehead was bandaged as though a wound had been bound up. A blanket was rolled together, which might have served his head for a plilow, had any one thought of it. Whether he was a presentado, a concentrado, an insurgent, or somebody else, might be learned later. He had evidently wandered in from the country. I in The people around him were not unsympathetic, but they have seen so many persons die in the streets that the sight, though it is no longer

And one life does not seem so much in the economic equation which must be solved with death everywhere the chief and determining factor. In seeking the solution it was necessary to hear again the story of the awful change which Weyler's concen-tration decree had wrought. The people of tration decree had wrought. The people of Guines who survive close their eyes in tell-ing of it, but the picture will always remain with them. One period they on not forget. That was the month April, when the deaths numbered 1.300 and the old cemetery was so choked that when the trenches would hold no more a new burying ground had to be found. The graveyards gave Guines a melancholy fame. "Blessed are those who die in the Lord" is the inscription in Latin over the entrance to the old one. But it was said of those who perished during the time of plague and hunger when the smallpox and the starvation fever kept equal pace that they died in the devil's embrace, for it was Weyler who beckoned them. The new burying ground lies beyond the other. It has no walls. When this place of sepulture was laid out no one thought of placing bounds and limits on the acreage of earth that would be needed. The Spaniard wh was then alcalde, or mayor, was heralded for his public spirit and benevolence in giving the ground to the municipality. Leter it was found he was conducting profitable real estate speculation by exact ng payment for every burial. Mar Palmerola, who was then governor of Palmerola, who was then governor of Ha vana province, dismissed the thrifty alcald

would not give the information which is seeded to understand the econo pects of Guines and the surrounding Few of those who are buried the have had monuments erected to them. On epitaph would answer for all—"Murdered y Spain's viceroy in Cuba, Don Valerian Weyler, Marques of Teneriffe." The facts are to be had outside the cemeteries from he civil records and the registry of birth

Destruction of the Labor Supply.

Without any purpose of taking a censu of the hecatombs, I have had the official figures verified. They show the fearful vacuum which has been caused in the labor supply and help to form an idea of the condition under which the regeneration of Cuba must be begun.

Weyler's concentration decree of January 5..... 9,00 Total population.... Number of death in Guines from Jan-

...15.000

Must Now Be Ratified by Congress and Tribal Council.

Under Its Privisions the Land is Allotted in Severalty and General Fund Divided.

MUSKOGEE, I. T., December 17. - A treaty between the United States and the Seminole nation has been concluded and signed by the Dawes and Seminole commissioners. It provides for the allotment of lands for the Seminole nation and a division of its moneys among the citizens after the tribal governments are extinguished. Five hundred thousand dollars of the funds of the nation is set apart for a permanent school fund for the education of children of members of the tribe. All funds of the nation are to be disbursed by a person appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. Liberal provision is made for lands to be used for church and school purposes by

non-citizens. No coal or mineral land leases are to be valid unless made with the tribal government and with the consent of the allottee and the Secretary of the Interior. The United States courts are given additional jurisdiction over the members of the tribe, and the United States is to prohibit the and the United States is to prohibit the introduction of handling in any way intoxicating liquors in the nation and is to make an effort to purchase 200,000 acres of land from the Creek nation for the Seminoles. The treaty is to be binding on the United States when ratified by Congress and on the Seminole nation when ratified by its

MURDERER OF MRS. CLUTE. Russian Named Hoff Under Arrest on

That Charge. SAN FRANCISCO, December 17.-The mystery attending the brutal murder of Mrs. Mary Clute Wednesday evening has been apparently solved by the arrest of a Russian, known as Albert Hoff, who had employed Mrs. Clute to renovate the mattresses. The prisoner was identified by Mrs. L. A. Legg, who occupies the room directly under that which the murder was committed, as the man seen leaving the house soon after Mrs. Clute's dying calls for help were heard.

Hoff's hand is badly cut, as though by the sharp flange of the coupling pin with which the murder was committed. He

strenuously maintains his innocence, how

TO SEARCH FOR MISSING BOATS. Rescaing Party Leaves Victoria t

Aid Cleveland Survivors. VICTORIA, B. C., December 17.-Th government steamer Quadra has left for Barclay sound to institute a search for the three boats which six days ago left the steamer Cleveland with twenty-two men, and which have not since been seen, and also to render assistance to the survivors of the disaster, who are staying with the stranded vessel. Capt. Irving went down on the Quadra, and his company's steamer, on the way, with Diver McHardy and some working apparatus on board.

Inspector of Hulls Collister is also on the Quadra, so that a thorough investigation can be made of the steamer. It is quite possible that the vessel can be raised, but scant hopes are held out for the three missing boats and their occupants. The dians did considerable damage in looting he ship. Constable McKenna went on the Quadra to take steps to prosecute the offenders. United States Consul Smith also

JAMES Z. BACON FOUND GUILTY. Made False Entries in Report of

Government Official. SALT LAKE CITY, Utah, December 17. -James Z. Bacon was found guilty in the United States circuit court at midnight of making false entries in his reports to the controller of the currency when president of the American National Bank of this city. He was found guilty on two counts, differing only technically.

The penalty is from five to ten years' im-

ent. Bacon's prosecution grew out of the failure early last year of the Bank private institution, of which he was president.

MRS. HIX SAILS FOR KLONDIKE. One of California's Pioneers Goes to Seek Gold.

TACOMA, Wash., December 17.-The steamer Alki sailed last night for Skaguay with a full cargo and 150 passengers, among those on board being Mrs. S. A. Hix of San Bernardino, Cal., a member of the first white family that went to Californa. She is bound for the Klondike country, and will go over the mountains as soon as the trails are passable.

NEW ROUTE TO YUKON.

The Discoverer, However, Will Not Give Details of Location.

SEATTLE, Wash., December 17 .- The steam schooner Augusta has arrived from Copper River after a very stormy voyage. George J. Rennick, who came down on her, claims to have discovered a new route to the Yukon, the location of which he wil not disclose. He says that with the exception of thirty miles overland he can go all the way by water. Rennick has several c'aims in the Copper River country and will take back forty miners with him

SUFFERED FOR HUMANITY. Indemnity Asked for Master and

Owners of the Nicaragua.

The Secretary of State has asked Congress to make an appropriation in indemnification of the owners and late master of the Swedish steamer Nicaragua. The master of this ship took aboard at Bluefields an American citizen as a refugee in time of revolution to save the man's life and landed him at Mobile. At this place the ship was detained in quarantine for a long time, because she had aboard a passenger from Bluefields, an infected port. Meantime, her cargo of fruit rotted and was a total loss, and the master of the versel was discharged because of the loss resulting from his humane action. The owners were sued by the charterers and were obliged to pay for the cargo. The Secretary of States does not name an but the claim amounts to

Consuls' Functions in China. The Secretary of State today submitted

to the Senate a decree, issued by United States Minister Denby at Peking, enlarging the functions of United States con China in making arrests of United States citizens in that country, by removing the limitation that confined them strictly to the limits of their own consular districts. The law requires such decrees to be submitted to Congress for ratification before they become effective.

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Would Send Two Expeditions to the Klondike.

MADE A STUDY OF THE SUBJECT

Demonstrates the Need of Prompt Action.

TRAILS WHICH HE PREFERS

Acting upon the advice of Gen. Miles. the Secretary of War, in anticipation of immediate action by Congress for the relief of miners in the Klondike country, has sent a telegram to Gen. Merriam, commanding the department of Columbia, at Vancouver barracks, Washington, directing him to send two or three competent officers of the army to Dyea and vicinity to reconnoiter and report to the department how supplies can best be gotten across the passes to Dawson. They are to report specially whether cattle can be driven on foot across the passes, and, if so, which is the easiest pass to cross, and, if not possible to get them all the way through, whether they can be driven part of the way and their carcasses cut up and carried the remainder.

Already the War Department has two arteady the War Department has two parties in Alaska, one under Col. Randall at St. Michael's, at the mouth of the Yukon river, and the other, consisting of two officers, Capt. Ray and another, somewhere in the vicinity of Circle City. The Secretary of War has made another move in the direction of preparation having the properties. tary of War has made another move in the direction of preparation, having been instrumental in sending to Lapland Mr. Kjalmann, the herder of the government reindeers in Alaska, to get options on a stock of the animals, to be forwarded to Alaska for use in transporting supplies.

Former Military Expeditions. Gen. Miles has made a special study of he situation of affairs in Alaska, and both he and Secretary Alger are deeply interested in relieving the prevailing distress in that far-off country. He told a Star reporter last night that two expeditions will se sent to the mining country-one by the

be sent to the mining country—one by the Cepper river route and the other by the Dalton trail—and that the dominion government will be asked to co-operate in facilitating the progress of the enterprise. "When Alaska was acquired by our government," said Gen. Miles, "It was occupled by a brigade of Russian troops, under command of Prince Macsantoff. The command of the territory was turned over to Gen. Rosseau, and for several years was occupied by United States military forces. The troops were gradually withdrawn and The troops were gradually withdrawn and the territory turned over to the Treasury Department in 1891. Subsequently the ter-ritory was occupied by civil government, with governor, marshal, etc. During the military occupation of the territory very little knowledge was obtained of the in-terior. Its waters were to some extent ex-piored by the naval forces of the United States.

"During the time from 1883 to 1885 while I was in command of the department of the Columbia I sent three expeditions was under Lieu Frederick Schwatka, in 1883; the second was under Lieut, Abercrombie, in 1885, and the third was under Lieut. H. T. Allen, ater in the same year. Lieut. Abercrombie conducted an expedition up the Copper River valley, and Lieut. Allen went up the Copper river, thence across the divide and down the Tanana to the Yukon, thence

to Bering sea.
"During the last few years miners have been prospecting that territory and reports have been received from time to time of discoveries of valuable mineral deposits. gold, silver and copper, so much it was estimated a year ago that a thou-sand men had gone into that country to seek for its minerals. Owing to the severi-ty of the climate, the extreme rugged, broken character of its topography, and its great distance from any sources of supply, he transportation is most difficult, and supplies almost impossible to obtain. The country is entirely unlike any other portion of the United States, where shelter from the severity of the weather can be ob-tained and where abundance of game may

be found upon which man can subsist. Probability of Suffering.

"It is now estimated that there are approximately 5,000 men either in our territory or in British Columbia, immediately adjacent to the boundary. The people engaged in sending supplies to that remote country have failed to furnish sufficient food to last the miners during the winter, and it is quite probable that there will be great suffering, if not many deaths, before relief can reach them, or supplies can be sent to them in the ordinary way at the opening of water communication in the ummer of next year. "Probably 99 per cent of these men are

citizens of the United States engaged in the most commendable enterprise of obtaining from mother earth treasures that will be of great benefit to our people. As the army has for 100 years been placed between the pioneer, the miner, the home builder and their savage foes or impend-ing dangers, it seems but proper that the military forces should render every assist-ance in this emergency that is possible. In my opinion, the government is warranted in exerting every effort to send relief and sustenance to these miners. "The distance from water communica-

tion in an air line to Belle Isle is as follows: From the mouth of the Yukon rivet, 700 miles; from Chilkoot Pass, 420 miles, and from the mouth of the Copper river, 340 miles. The distance in following the windings of the great Yukon river, navigable for 2,000 miles, is 1,700 miles, and from the Chilkoot Pass, 775 miles. The latter course also follows the windings of the upper Yukon. The distance from mouth of Copper river is much shorter and more direct, but as the route has never been fully explored, it is impossible to give the exact distance.

"As water communication by the Yukon is now closed, I believe that two expeditions should be sent—one over what is known as the Dalton trail from Dyea to Dawson City, Belle Isle or Circle City; the other from the mouth of Copper river to Belle Isle. The Dalton trail extends but a short distance through our territory, being principally along the upper Yukon river in British Columbia. Hence to send an expedition by that route will require the approval of the Canadian government, and probably the two governments will co-operate in this humane enterprise. We could at least clear the trail and make the route practicable as far as it extends within our territory, and if permission is given by the Canadian government, can send relief by that route through British

The Copper River Route.

"The route from the mouth of Copper river extends entirely through our own territory, and in my opinion is practicable for sending supplies to the places already mentioned, or to a point near the boundary line. where a depot of supplies, an asylum and a hespital could be established. I have, therefore, recommended that Congress give authority for the sending of two expeditions with food and hospital supplies with

tions with food and hospital supplies with as little delay as possible.

"Of course, the sending of a military escort by water from Puget sound to the mouth of Copper river and to Chilkoot Pass will involve considerable expense. The cost of getting food into that remote country particularly at this season of the year will necessarily be very great, but it need not